

Denholme Urban Sanitary Authority.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

On the Sanitary condition and Health
of the Denholme Urban Sanitary District
with tabular returns of Vital Statistics.

DURING THE YEAR 1938.

TO THE DENHOLME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District, along with the vital statistics for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District	...	2536 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	mid 1938	2531
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	according to the Rate book	902
Rateable value	£13531.	
Sum represented by a penny rate,	£51.057.	

The population figure shows an increase on the figures for previous years recently.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The population is almost entirely composed of the thrifty artisan class engaged in the worsted mills, stone quarries, agricultural and dairy farms of the district, a large number travel to the neighbouring towns and are employed as wool-sorters, warehousemen, and in the engineering and building trades. No great unemployment exists.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	(Total)	18	16	34
„ „	Legitimate	18	15	33
„ „	Illegitimate	0	1	1
Still Births	(Legitimate)	0	2	2
„ „	(Illegitimate)	0	0	0

Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population :

Still Births	...	...	0.8
Live Births	...	...	13.3
Total (Live and Still Births)	...	...	14.2

Deaths. Males 20. Females 12. Total 32

Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population 12.6

(29)	Deaths from Puerperal sepsis	...	nil
(30)	" " Puerperal causes	...	nil
	Total	...	nil

Death rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1000 live births	29.4
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	29.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) Females 2, Males 5, Total 7
Death rate from Cancer per 1000 of estimated

resident population	2.8
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	nil

The Birth and Death rates compared with those of last year and with the average rates for England and Wales are shown in the following table :

	England & Wales 1938	Denholme 1938	Denholme 1937
Birth rate (live births)	15.1	13.3	13.1
Death rate	11.6	12.6	14.6
Infantile mortality	53	29.4	nil

The following table shows the ages at death.

Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and over
1	0	0	0	15	16

Table showing age groups and causes of death :

Cause of Death	under 1 year	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 and over
Cancer					3	4
Cirrhosis of Liver					1	
Bronchitis					1	
Heart Disease					2	7
Aneurysm					1	
Other Circ. Dis.					2	
Cerebral Hæm.					1	
Other deqd. Dis.					4	2
Other Liver Dis.						1
Nephritis						1
Premature Birth	1					
Senility						1

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority consist of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector who is also the Council's Surveyor, supplemented by the School Medical Officers, Health Visitors, and Veterinary Officers of the West Riding County Council.

All arrangements for Hospital treatment, whether for Fever, Small Pox, Tuberculosis, Maternity, Puerperal, or general cases remain the same as in 1937, and the same applies to Laboratory services.

The district is served by the St. John's Ambulance from Bradford for general and accident cases. In the case of road accidents, the police, on being informed, will call the Keighley Police Ambulance, or, direct communication may be made to the chief constable at Keighley, if the local police are not available.

Denholme District Nursing Association continues to provide the services of a capable nurse, who is a registered midwife holding the certificate of the Central Midwives Board for home nursing and maternity work.

There is no Maternity Home in the district.

There is not any satisfactory provision for a Mortuary, and post-mortem examinations have to be conducted in private houses.

A child welfare clinic has been established in the district by the County Council, and has proved of great value and of great convenience locally.

SECTION C.

1. (i) WATER. The supply from Messrs. W. & H. Foster, Ltd. and Bradford Corporation continues to be satisfactory. The springs and wells in the outlying parts of the district still give a good supply.

(ii) SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE. The effluent from the sewage disposal works was complained about by the West Riding Rivers Board, liquid waste from a farm was found to be the pollution, and the matter is receiving attention.

The sparsely populated southern end of the district is unsewered.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. One small stream formed mostly by the reservoir overflow, remains comparatively free from pollution.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.	1938	1937	1936
Privies with covered middens	88	104	112
„ open middens	4	9	9
Pail or Tub Closets	47	25	37
Waste Water Closets	21	24	26
Fresh Water Closets	790	750	729
Chemical Closets	2	2	2

ii. PUBLIC CLEANSING. The Scavenging of the district is still carried out by the Council's staff in a very satisfactory manner : ashbins and pails are emptied weekly, and privies every 14 to 21 days. The method of disposal is the controlled tipping system, except in a few outlying districts where old quarries are used. The refuse is collected by covered dust-carts and conveyed to the tips.

The cost of scavenging for 1938 was £320.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a tabular statement of the inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector :

Inspection for nuisances in 1938	914
Nuisances found in 1938 ...	14
" in hand at end of 1937	15
Total needing abatement	29
Nuisances abated during 1938	20
" outstanding at end of 1938	9
Informal notices served ...	14
" " complied with	13
Statutory notices served ...	nil
Summonses or other legal proceedings	nil

(iv) SHOPS. 41 visits paid under the Shops Act, 1934, sect. 10 and 13 (3) and no unsatisfactory conditions were found.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT. The Sanitary Inspector has taken observations, and no action has been found necessary.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There are none in the district.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. There have been no cases of infestation or vermin to deal with.

4. SCHOOLS. There is one public elementary school in the district, a well lighted, well ventilated, substantially built stone edifice, with a good water supply ; it has been visited on several occasions and found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The health of the scholars was good, and 22 of them were immunized against Diphtheria.

Health week was held as usual ; talks were given, a film display also, and literature on the subject was distributed. An essay competition was held.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The total number of houses in the district is 914, of which 848 are working class type; the total number of inhabited houses according to the rate book at the end of 1938 was 902.

The demand for Council houses continues to be good; thirty-five houses, comprising the Council's scheme, have been completed and through this it has been possible to relieve all known cases of overcrowding.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1938 :			
(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	13
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose		9
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	... ..	9
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		9
3.	Number of dwelling-houses needing further action		12
(a)	Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	nil
(b)	Number (excluding those in sub-head 3 (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		12
II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :			
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	12
III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.			
(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		none
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
	(a) By owners	... ..	none
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		none

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	none
2	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	... ..
(a)	By owners	... ..	none
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners		none

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1	Number of representations, etc. made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	... ..	none
2	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made		none
3	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders		none

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made	... ..	none
2	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	none

IV. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) i	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of the year	... ..	none known
ii	Number of families dwelling therein		none
iii	Number of persons dwelling therein		none
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	..	1
(c) i	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	2
ii	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	11

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding none

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are 56 cowsheds in the district with an average number of 400 cows. The number of separate cowkeepers is 25; the number of registered milksellers is 10; the number of wholesale traders is 15. The cowsheds and the cows are frequently inspected both by the Sanitary Officer and the County Veterinary Officer. Two farms have licences for production of "Accredited milk". The structure of the cowsheds is generally good, the sheds kept clean, and the methods of milking are satisfactory.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are 4 private slaughter houses in the district, of which 3 are licensed and 1 registered.

(c) BAKEHOUSES. There are 3 in the district, and they have been found in a satisfactory condition on inspection.

SECTION F.

The notifiable Infectious Diseases occurring during the year are shown in the following table :

Disease	Total number of cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Domiciliary Treatment
Scarlet Fever	7	4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	1
Diphtheria	4	3	1
Erysipelas	5	0	5
Acute Pneumonia	1	0	1

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 2 notifications of the Pulmonary form; one was admitted to a Sanatorium.

I append Tables C. and D, and Form 572.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. W. N. BLACKMORE,

M.B., Ch.B., (Edin.)